

4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

I want to briefly update you on the Governing Board's work during Covid as there are a couple of items that we would like you to be aware of.

I would like to begin by making you aware of the work of our Equity Group. This is a small team of governors who meet as needed to review the school's decisions by being the moral compass to review the steps the school has taken in order to support that they are, as far as possible, fair and equitable to all children. The group considers how the school is operating during the pandemic and asks questions about whether any potential change in methods of operation could adversely impact on any group. This includes for example looking to avoid teaching methods that may not be accessible by all children due to issues such as digital exclusion.

On that matter, we have been working with the school to find ways to overcome the legal, safeguarding, and technical issues that make it difficult to offer online lessons. We are convinced that these are not the gold standard for remote schooling, however we recognise the value of the social interaction between children. We welcome the youth groups in the village who have been able to offer online meetings and the school has been working closely with groups like the Scouts to facilitate this. Schools have different regulations when it comes to online teaching (and the advice from Counties may differ too) so we have to ensure we comply with these to ensure the safety of our children when online. Considering the difficulties that the school has overcome we are extremely pleased that there is a plan in place to roll out some regular online meet-ups for classes in the next few weeks.

In addition, we recognise that the current situation with the national lockdown changing the way that schools operate can lead to confusion for some parents. We also recognise that given the rate of change in regulations; there may be some situations which may give rise to dissatisfaction. The school does do its best all the time to implement the multiple and ever-changing requirements. Whilst we hope you will not have need to use it, we have developed a Covid specific complaints procedure, which will be available on the website next week. This process is intended to support you to raise concerns about issues, which have been caused as a direct consequence on the pandemic as opposed to our normal complaints procedure that still deals with concerns about "normal" schooling.

If you are interested in the work of the Governing Board and would like to join us, we are looking to co-opt a Governor onto the board. Having undertaken both a skills analysis of the Board, and looked at succession planning, we are particularly interested in identifying someone to join us who has financial skills. If that is you, or if you know someone who may be interested (they do not need to have children at the school) please contact me via school reception and I will arrange an opportunity to have a chat.

Finally, but most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank our incredible staff team for all the hard work they are doing. The national lockdown has caused teachers to have to work twice as hard as normal for a sustained period, whilst putting their health on the line as keyworkers, enabling other keyworkers to save lives. The whole staff team at Cheddington has risen to this challenge amazingly well and created learning suitable for both

the remote education you may be doing at home and the classroom-based learning that keyworker children are undertaking. They have put your children first during the pandemic and deserve all the thanks and praise we can offer them.

Simon Aulton  
Chair of Governors.